

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for producing a plurality of holes in a downwardly facing surface such as a ceiling, the apparatus comprising
5 a tool configured for producing a hole in the downwardly facing surface,
a tool support configured to support said tool above a floor, and
a tool actuator configured to vertically move the tool relative to the tool support such that the tool can be placed in hole-producing position relative to the surface.
- 10 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the tool is one selected from the group including a drill, an awl, and a punch.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the tool support comprises a base having an elongated member extending vertically therefrom.
4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the base has castor wheels attached
15 thereto for facilitating movement of the base relative to the floor.
5. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the base comprises four legs.
6. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the elongated member extends from a central portion of the base.
7. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the elongated member is a square
20 steel tube.
8. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein support brackets are coupled to the elongated member, the support brackets supporting the tool actuator for movement relative to the elongated member.
9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the tool actuator comprises a foot
25 lever pivotably mounted on the tool support, the foot lever being configured to move the tool upwardly when the foot lever is depressed.

10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the tool actuator is one selected from the group comprising a pneumatic actuator, a hydraulic actuator, and a motorized actuator.

11. A device for drilling a multitude of holes in a ceiling, the device
5 comprising:
means for producing an aperture in the ceiling, and
means for vertically moving the aperture-producing means into and out of aperture-producing positions at points in the ceiling.

12. The device of claim 11, wherein the aperture producing means is one
10 selected from the group consisting of a drill, an awl, and a hole punch.

13. The device of claim 11, wherein the vertically moving means comprises one selected from the group consisting of a foot lever, a hand lever, a pneumatic actuator, and a hydraulic actuator.

14. The aperture of claim 11, further comprising a support base coupled to
15 the vertically moving means, the support base supporting the vertically moving means on a floor and permitting movement of the vertically moving means relative to the support base.

15. A method for drilling a plurality of holes in a ceiling structure comprising
20 laying out a grid on the floor below the ceiling with intersecting grid lines on the floor corresponding to locations of holes in the ceiling,
providing a drill apparatus comprising a base movable about on the floor to locate over such intersecting grid lines with a drill movable vertically upwardly toward the ceiling and with an actuator for driving the drill upwardly, and
25 locating the drill over the intersecting grid lines and moving the drill upwardly to drill a hole in the ceiling.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the actuator comprises one selected from the group comprising a foot lever, a hand lever, a pneumatic actuator, and a hydraulic actuator.

Rule 1.26
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18. 5 The method of claim 15, wherein the base comprises an elongated member extending vertically therefrom to support the drill apparatus.